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80 KINGSTON 3060

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EXCISE

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ACTION ARA-15
INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ADS-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15
ICA-11 SY-05 HA-05 /091 W
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R 251352Z APR 80
FM AMEMBASSY KINGSTON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2492
INFO AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN
AMEMBASSY CARACAS
AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY OSLO
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN
USINT HAVANA

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY RB DATE 5 JUN 1982
PORTIONS DENIED AS INDICATED

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 KINGSTON 3060
E.O. 12065: GDS 4/12/86 (LAWRENCE, L.) OR-AMB
TAGS: PINT, JM
SUBJECT: PESSIMISTIC TALK FROM JAMAICAN MODERATES
REF: KINGSTON 2534

1. C - ENTIRE TEXT.

2. SUMMARY: THREE JAMAICAN MODERATE LEADERS HAVE TOLD AN EMBOFF THAT THE ESCALATING POLITICAL VIOLENCE IN JAMAICA HAS SERIOUS IMPLICATIONS FOR THE FUTURE OF DEMOCRACY ON THE ISLAND. THEY HAVE WARNED THAT THE USG MUST NOT DISCOUNT THE USE OF EXTRA-CONSTITUTIONAL METHODS BY THE PRESENT GOVERNMENT TO RETAIN POWER. THE THREE POLITEDLY PREDICTED A MASSIVE OPPOSITION VICTORY IN ANY RELATIVELY FAIR ELECTION AND STRESSED THAT THOSE NOW IN POWER WOULD USE POLITICAL VIOLENCE TO RETAIN POWER. END SUMMARY.

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3. AN EARLY SUNDAY MORNING ATTACK BY A PARAMILITARY GROUP ON A JAMAICA LABOUR PARTY (JLP) FUNCTION NOW BEING CALLED THE GOLD STREET MASSACRE, IS CAUSING GRAVE CONCERN AMONG JAMAICAN MODERATES. CONVERSATIONS WITH THREE CONVINCED DEMOCRATS [redacted] REVEAL A SURPRISING CONVERGENCE OF OPINIONS AND ANXIETY ABOUT THE PRESENT POLITICAL SITUATION. THAT THERE HAS BEEN AN ESCALATION IN THE LEVEL OF VIOLENCE WITHIN THE LAST FEW DAYS IS AN UNDISPUTED FACT (REFTEL). WHAT MOST CONCERNS THESE MEN IS THE REASONS FOR THE VIOLENCE AND THE PEOPLE PERPETRATING IT.

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4. THE CONCERN EXPRESSED BY ALL THREE OF THESE LEADERS IS THAT THE USG MAY BE TOTALLY MISINTERPRETING THE PRESENT POLITICAL SITUATION IN JAMAICA. WARNING THAT AMERICANS INSTINCTIVELY CONCENTRATE THEIR ATTENTION ONLY ON ELECTIONS AS A MEANS FOR THE TRANSFER OF POWER, THESE MEN ARE CONCERNED THAT WE WILL NOT PAY ENOUGH ATTENTION TO OTHER POSSIBILITIES. ALL THREE STRESS THAT THERE IS ONLY ONE POSSIBLE RESULT OF A FAIR ELECTION - A MASSIVE JLP VICTORY LEAVING A DISPIRITED AND TINY PNP IN OPPOSITION. THEY STRESS THAT OUR EFFORTS SHOULD BE CONCENTRATED ON THE POSSIBILITIES IF FAIR ELECTIONS ARE NOT HELD. THERE WAS GENERAL AGREEMENT ON THREE BROAD SEENARIOS: (1) THE PNP LEFTISTS DELIBERATELY USE VIOLENCE DURING THE VOTER REGISTRATION PERIOD TO MOVE JLP SUPPORTERS AND DISENCHANTED PNP SUPPORTERS OUT OF AREAS WHERE THE RULING PARTY HAS TRADITIONALLY HELD POWER IN AN EFFORT TO KEEP THE OPPOSITION SUPPORTERS OFF THE VOTER LISTS AND

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ACHIEVE SOMETHING NEAR PARITY BETWEEN THE TWO PARTIES. THIS WOULD BE FOLLOWED ON ELECTION DAY BY MASSIVE INTIMIDATE OF JOP SUPPORTERS AND WOULD RESULT IN A PNP VICTORY. (W) THE VIOLENCE IS SLOWLY AND DELIBERATELY ESCALATED AND OVERFLOWS OUT OF THE LONG-SUFFERING GHETTO AREAS INTO THE SECTIONS WHERE THE AFFLUENT RESIDE. THIS MANIPULATION OF THE VIOLENCE BY THE LEFT RESULTS IN THE MIDDLE AND UPPER CLASSES SCREAMING FOR PROTECTION FROM THE LAWLESS, AND THE GOVERNMENT OBLIGINGLY DECLARES A STATE OF EMERGENCY AND INDEFINITELY POSTPONES ELECTIONS. (E) AS IN THE PREVIOUS SCENARIO, THE VIOLENCE IS SLOWLY AND DELIBERATELY ESCALATED, AND THE GOVERNMENT INCREASINGLY CALLS ON ITS ILL-EQUIPPED POLICE AND MILITARY FORCES (KINGSTON 2534) WHICH WILL BE UNABLE TO STEM THE TIDE OF LAWLESSNESS AS CHAOS APPROACHES. THE GOVERNMENT THROWS ITS PARAMILITARY HOME GUARD INTO THE FRAY, ARRESTS THE OPPOSITION LEADERS, CALLS OFF ITS THUGS, RESTORES ORDER AND EFFECTIVELY HOLDS A COUP GAINST ITSELF.

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 KINGSTON 3060
4. COMMENT:

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